

THE TRUE BRIDE OF CHRIST IN HEAVEN

INTRODUCTION

The understanding of who the true bride of Christ really is, has been misread, misinterpreted, misunderstood, misrepresented and therefore erroneously taught in religious circles even till today. This has made for error in foundations in genuine spiritual understanding concerning the Body of Christ and the Church in general. When one builds on a faulty foundation, you will always see cracks appearing all over on the outside on the building or house that stands on it. For the house shall fall in the nearest future. **Mtt 7:26-27**

There is a pertinent need to carefully carry out a biblical study of the identity of the bride of Christ. And who best to read/learn from than from Christ, the bridegroom, himself before any other. Whatsoever any other writer, be he an apostle of Christ or a prophet of old, might say concerning this topic, we shall view it first in line with what Christ has said and not in contradiction to it. This has always been where the error had come in the misconstruing of this topic. Christ, whose bride it is that is being discussed should know more about the topic than any other person for that matter. The teachings of Christ shall form the foundation upon which we shall build in this discuss as in all our various literatures. The things of God are spiritual and therefore are spiritually discerned; for the natural man cannot be able to understand it no matter how much he tries. There is a need not to use our carnal mindset in interpreting spiritual things rather you need to have the mind of Christ instead, if not errors would be introduced unknowingly to you. The ways and thoughts of God is not the same as that of man. You need the Spirit of truth to decode them as it were for they are mysteries, please be advised.

THE BRIDEGROOM

Ironically, Christ said far more about the bridegroom than the bride in his teachings, but from such sayings we can be able to eliminate who the bride is not, in order to identify who the bride is eventually. We would move from the known to the unknown as it were, from the bridegroom to the bride.

Mtt 9:14-15 (GNT) Vr. 14 Then the followers of John the Baptist came to Jesus, asking, “Why is it that we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples don’t fast at all?” **Vr. 15** Jesus answered, “Do you expect the guests at a wedding party (that is the Church) to be sad as long as the bridegroom is with them? Of course not! But the day will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.

Lk 5:33 And they said unto him, Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise the disciples of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink? **Vr. 34** And he said unto them, Can ye make the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them? **Vr. 35** But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.

Christ explicitly and unambiguously identified himself as the BRIDEGROOM and his disciples as GUESTS to a wedding (marriage) party and not as his bride or brides as it were. John the Baptist also said as much when he taught concerning his relationship with Jesus Christ in

Jn 3:28 Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. **Vr.29** He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

Even as John the Baptist identified himself here as the friend of Christ, even so Christ called his disciples his friends not his bride before his death in

Jn 15:12-17(Vr.13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. **Vr.14** Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. **Vr.15** Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

Even in the parable of the kingdom of heaven being likened unto ten virgins, the virgins were not said to be the bride(s) (as if the bridegroom was to marry several brides) as many erroneously read from an eye of age long religious indoctrination by which as men generally have been made to read all scriptures/the bible as it were, rather they were friends and guests of the bridegroom waiting to escort/accompany him unto the wedding ceremony.

Mtt 25:1-13 (Vr.1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. **Vr.2** And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. **Vr.6** And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. **Vr.10** And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. **Vr.11** Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. **Vr.12** But he answered and said, Verily I

say unto you, I know you not. **Vr.13** Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Lk 12:34-38(Vr.35) Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; **Vr.36** And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. **Vr.37** Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching:

In another parable of Jesus which had semblance/reference to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, we are referred again as invited guests to the wedding and not the bride:

Mtt 22:1-14(Vr.2) The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, **Vr.3** And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. **Vr.4** Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. **Vr.8** Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. **Vr.9** Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. **Vr.10** So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. **Vr.11** And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: **Vr.12** And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless

Christ spoke about the bride in the bible verse below but we completely missed it all this while. Because definitely this was his invitation to us to come and be with him where he will be:

Jn 14:2 In my Father's house (the tabernacle of God) are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. **Vr.3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Jn 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: (that is, the bride of the Lamb is his glory- **Rev 21:9-11**)

Question is-Where would the Lamb be? With his bride of course and there we, his saints, shall be with him also at the very end. **Rev. 21:2-5,9-27; Rev 19:7-9**

Heb 12:22 But **ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem**,(the bride of the Lamb) and to an innumerable company of angels, **Vr.23** To the general assembly and the church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the

Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, **Vr.24** And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

All the above described shall be found in the bride of Christ, the Church inclusive as mentioned. The Church is not the bride rather the Church is found in the bride as it were. **Rev 21:9-14,24-27**

WHAT DID CHRIST CALL HIS DISCIPLES?

Throughout his teachings, Christ NEVER referred to his disciples as his bride whether in parables or direct speech rather he called them several other names instead. Such names we shall search and identify. This is very important so that at the end of the day in heaven men will not accuse the Master of having deceived them as per their status with him at the Marriage supper of the Lamb. He says we are invited guests, his brethrens and not his bride as it were. So settle that now in your mind so that you would not be offended at him in that day unlike what our religious leaders have erroneously misled us to believe presently in other to cause offense to be in us. **Mtt 11:6; Jn 16:1; Mtt 20:1-15**

Matt 12:46-50(Vr.48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? And who are my brethren? **Vr.49** And stretched forth his hand toward his disciples and said, behold my mother and my brethren! **Vr.50** For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Jn 15:12-17(Vr. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. **Vr. 14** Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. **Vr. 15** Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

Jn 13:13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. **Vr.14** If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. **Vr.16** Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. **Vr.34** A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. **Vr.35** By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Jn 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

We are Christ's brethren in heaven and not his bride. He had elevated us from the position of servants to friends, from friends to co-heirs with him in heaven but not his bride. **Jn 15:12-17; Rom 8:16-17**

WHO IS THE TRUE BRIDE OF CHRIST?

The true bride of Christ currently is with the Father which at in heaven, who shall present her unto the Son at the end of all things. God gave Jesus Christ this revelation to show unto John his servant through his angel in the book of Revelations. **Rev. 1:1; Rev 21:1-3, 9-27.**

Rev 19:1-9 (Vr.5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, (that is the saints) and ye that fear him, both small and great. **7-** Let us be glad and rejoice and give honor to him; for the marriage of the lamb is come and his wife hath made herself ready (from heaven or from the earth?). **Vr.8-** And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white; for the fine linen (not her) is the righteousness of saints (Note: the saints are not the wife but rather form part of her adornment even as fine linen). **Vr.9** And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb (the saints are the invited guests and children of the bridechamber-**Lk 5:34; Mtt 9:15; Mtt 22:8-10; Mtt 25:10**). And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Question is: Who is this bride exactly and where would she come from? Down from heaven or up from the earth? We were told explicitly without any ambiguity by the angel of the Lord unlike what men from the earth have told us.

Rev 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **Vr.3** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. **Vr.9** And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues and talked with me, saying, come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.**Vr.10** And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.

The bride of the Lamb is the New Jerusalem city that shall come down from God out of heaven and not the Church that shall come up from the earth into heaven at the first Resurrection and "caught up" event of the Last day. **1 Thess 4:13-18; Mtt 24:29-31; Rev 21:2**

Christ our Lord and Master specifically told us that as the children of the resurrection, the true children of God being equal unto the angels, we shall neither marry nor be given in marriage to anyone in heaven. We are the brethren of Christ and it is not us that the Father shall present to or give out to His Son in marriage as it were.

Lk 20:33-36 (Vr.35 But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: **Vr.36** Neither can they

die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

It is only in the world as flesh and blood that we marry and are given out in marriage not in heaven as flesh and bone. So it is a false doctrine to teach so as the CAO does ignorantly today.

VIVID DESCRIPTION OF THE BRIDE OF THE LAMB

A vivid and unequivocal description of the bride was given to us in the revelation of John, so that no one would have any doubt as to what was being referred to as the bride of Christ. Even with this many choose to be willingly ignorant of the true sayings of God. The connection or link between the original twelve Apostles of Christ, the twelve tribes of Israel and the rest of the saints of Christ, Jerusalem, the temple, etc were captured therein also, for those that choose to see and not remain blinded unto their own shame and confusion.

Rev 21:9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues and talked with me, saying, come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.**Vr.10** And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. **Vr.11** Having the glory of God and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; **Vr.12** And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: **Vr.13** On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. **Vr.14** And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. **Vr.15** And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. **Vr.16** And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousands furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. **Vr.17** And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. **Vr.18** And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. **Vr.19** And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; **Vr.20** The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. **Vr.21** And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. **Vr.22** And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. **Vr.23** And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. **Vr.24** And the nations of them which are saved (the Redeemed of the LORD) shall walk in the light of

it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. **Vr.25** And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. **Vr.26** And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. **Vr.27** And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life (**Lk 10:17-20; Hebr 12:22-23; Rev 13:7-8**).

For emphasis, The saints of Christ are not the bride of Christ rather it is the new Jerusalem city that is termed as the bride. We are guests and adorning ornaments of the city, pillars, foundations therein. See what Christ has promised to make us in the city as it were:

Rev. 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. **Vr.12** Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God (adorned as a bride for Christ- **Rev 21:2**): and I will write upon him my new name. **Vr.13** **He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

Rev 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. **Vr.17** And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. **Vr.3** And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: **Vr.4** And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

THE JERUSALEM BELOW AND THE JERUSALEM ABOVE

Unfortunately, many lack understanding of spiritual foundational principles and because of that they interpret the Bible erroneously (**Mtt 22:29**), seeing the letters but lacking the Spirit behind the letters. For example, many lack understanding of the principle of “the Shadow, the Image and the True” needed in decoding the mysteries of the Bible, nor can they distinguish between “the Scriptures, the Gospel and the Epistles” as contained in the Bible, and with so many other spiritual areas cum principles wherein they are blinded though they claim they can see still. **Jn 9:39-41**

We shall briefly identify and distinguish the Jerusalem beneath (the shadow) and the Jerusalem above (the true) in order to bring out some spiritual insights thereby. The former shall pass away, but the latter shall endure for evermore.

Gal 4:21-31 (Vr.22 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. **Vr.23** But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. **Vr.24** Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. **Vr.25** For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. **Vr.26** But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. **Vr.28** Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. **Vr.29** But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. **Vr.31** So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.

Matt 5:35- Nor by the earth; for it is his foot stool; neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great king.

Heb 12:22-24 (Vr.22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, **Vr.23** To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, **Vr.24** And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant,

Joel 3:21- for the LORD dwelleth in Zion.

Rev 14:1 And I looked and lo a Lamb stood on mount Sion and with him an 144,000 having his Father's name.

Isa 14:13 for thou hast said in the thine heart I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.

Ps 48:1-2 (Vr.1 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. **Vr.2** Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

Matt 5:35 Nor by the earth; for it is his foot stool; neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great king.

Rev 3:12 And I will write upon him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God;

Rev 21:1-3 (Vr.2 And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Heb 11:8-16 (Vr.10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. **Vr.16** But now they desire a better country, that is an heavenly wherefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; for he hath prepared for them a city. (**Jn 14:2-3**)

Heb 13:14 For here have we no continuing city but we seek one to come.

Note that Jerusalem is found on the earth and is considered the beloved city of God on the earth where His temple is situated. Jerusalem is the glory of all cities/land in the world as it were. As it was in the beginning so shall it be at the end, world without end, Amen. When the New heaven and New earth is made manifest, also a New Jerusalem city from God out of heaven shall come down unto the new earth (**Rev 21:1-2**) and shall be the glory of all nations on the earth (**Rev 21:24,26**) and God shall dwell with men upon the earth (**Rev 21:3-5,22-23**).

QN: WHAT IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT JERUSALEM?

God describes the Jerusalem beneath so vividly below leaving no ambiguity as to why the city is an epitome of a wife and a mother, even as the Jerusalem above is the mother of all that are free, born after the Spirit (**Gal 4:26**) as it were:

Ezek 16:1-14,15 (Vr.2 Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations, **Vr.3** And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto Jerusalem; Thy birth and thy nativity is of the land of Canaan; thy father was an Amorite, and thy mother an Hittite. **Vr.4** And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee ; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all. **Vr.5** None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the lothing of thy person, in the day that thou wast born. **Vr.6** And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live. **Vr.7** I have caused thee to multiply as the bud of the field, and thou hast increased and waxen great, and thou art come to excellent ornaments: thy breasts are fashioned, and thine hair is grown, whereas thou wast naked and bare. **Vr.8** Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I sware unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine. **Vr.9** Then washed I thee with water; yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil. **Vr.10** I clothed thee also with broidered work, and shod thee with badgers'skin, and I girded thee about with fine linen, and I covered thee with silk. **Vr.11** I decked thee also with ornaments, and I put bracelets upon thy hands, and a chain on thy neck. **Vr.12** And I put a jewel on thy forehead, and earrings in thine ears, and a beautiful crown upon thine head. **Vr.13** Thus wast thou decked with gold and silver; and thy raiment was of fine linen, and silk, and broidered work; thou didst eat fine flour, and honey, and oil: and thou wast exceeding

beautiful, and thou didst prosper into a kingdom. **Vr.14** And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord GOD.

The Jerusalem below was adorned by God from the beginning even as He shall adorn the Jerusalem above as a bride for her husband on that day. **Rev 21:2**

I Kings 11:31- And he said to Jeroboam take thee ten pieces; for thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel, behold I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to thee. **Vr.32** (But he shall have one tribe for my servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel:) **Vr.36** And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a light alway before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there.

Jerusalem is built upon Mount Zion, in it was built the holy temple of God (**Lk 4:9**) and all Israel gather there regularly to celebrate and worship God in his temple. The temple is found within the city as it were. Jerusalem also constituted the city that is the focus of attack of the enemies of the Jews throughout the ages. It shall be where the antichrist, the Beast, shall fulfill

2 Thess 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; **Vr.4** Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

It shall be where Satan's very last onslaught against the saints shall be targeted in fulfillment of

Rev 20:6-10 (Vr.9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Jerusalem beneath have always been Satan and his cohorts focal point of attack for defilement and destruction (**Lk 19:41-44; Mtt 24:1-2; I Cor 3:16-17; Rev 11:1-2**) because it is the beloved city of the Lord on earth and the shadow of the bride of the lamb in heaven, the new Jerusalem, which Lucifer covetously desired unlawfully (**Exo 20:17**) at the beginning to have adulterously (**Mtt 5:27-28**) and was cast down to hell for in

Isa.14:12-15 (Vr.13 for thou hast said in the thine heart I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of god; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.**Vr.15** Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

2 Chron 6:6 But I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there; and have chosen David to be over my people Israel. **Vr.2** But I have built an house of habitation for thee, and a place for thy dwelling for ever.

Isa 24:23 Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously. (**Mtt 24:29-31; 2 Thess 2:3-9**)

THE SAINTS ARE REFERRED TO AS THE HOUSE OF GOD

Many wonder why God should call the holy city the bride of Christ and because they cannot fathom it in their reasoning, therefore they change the spiritual truth of the gospel into a lie to suit their own carnal reasoning and logic unto error. Trying to show themselves wise but ending up being fools as it were (**Rom 1:22**). They are willingly ignorant of the fact that we, the saints, are called the temple of God, the house of Christ, God's building, etc, yet they find it hard to accept that the bride of the Lamb is called the Holy city. The physical Temple is found in the physical holy city on earth even as we, being spiritual houses, shall be found in the spiritual holy city, the bride in heaven on that day. **Rev 21:22-27; Rev 22:14**

I Pet 2:4-10 (Vr.5) Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

I Cor 3: 9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. **Vr.16** Know ye not that ye are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

II Cor 6:16 For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them and walk in the and I will be their God and they shall be my people.

Eph 2:18 For through him (Christ) we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. **Vr.21** In whom all the building fitly framed together growth unto an holy temple in the Lord. **Vr.22** in whom ye also are build together for an habitation of God through the spirit.

Heb 10:21 And having an high priest (Christ) over the house of God (the Church);

I Tim 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Heb 3:1-6 (Vr.4 For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God. **Vr.6** But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

Christ's bride is the city, while we are the houses that shall populate it on that day as it were.

The saints are but the image temple of God on earth, because there is the true temple of God in heaven even now (**Rev 11:19**) wherein Christ stands as our high priest before the throne of God therein (**Hebr 9:11,23-24**). Until you are able to understand the spiritual concept of the Shadow, the Image and the True, loads of spiritual understandings of the Bible shall continue to elude you. I pray the Lord shall open your eyes of understanding to decode the mysteries therein in Jesus name.

CONCLUSION

The saints are not the bride of Christ in heaven, but the adopted sons of God invited as guests to the marriage supper of the Lamb. Allegorically, apostle Paul when describing Christ and the Church likened it unto the carnal union of an husband and a wife (**Eph 5:22-33**) and probably from there this erroneous inference of the Church as the bride of Christ in heaven was deduced by the Church as an organization (CAO) and taught as such till date, a childish understanding. A typical result of Paul speaking to the brethren as unto carnal, babes in Christ rather than speaking unto them as unto spiritual (**I Cor. 3:1-3**) is what has resulted in the Church being called the Bride of Christ in heaven unfortunately. The CAO produces carnal believers always from their teachings of inferred doctrines rooted in the wisdom of men rather than the wisdom of God which eludes them continually. **I Cor 14:20; I Cor 13:11-12; Jn 3:9-13**

Not once did Christ use the analogy that we shall be his bride in heaven, NEVER, but unfortunately many today do not hear Christ but rather they hear every other character in the Bible instead, this is a grave error of our times. **Mtt 17:3-5; Acts 3:21-24; Jn 10:25-27**

A city comprises of houses that are found in it. The New Jerusalem city that comes down from heaven is the bride of the Lamb, whereas the saints that shall come up from the earth into heaven shall be the houses in the city as it were. A city is meant (or made) to be inhabited. A city without a house is left desolate (**Lk 13:34-35**). So the New Jerusalem city is meant to be populated with houses and we are meant to be the houses in it. **Rev 21:27**

As an analogy, the Shadow bride of Christ on earth is the city of David, the earthly Jerusalem and her children are the children of Israel contained therein. **Ezek 16:2-14; Gal 4:22-25**

The Image bride of Christ on earth as a figure is the Body of Christ (BOC) and her children are the Church, the saints, members of the BOC as taught by Apostle Paul. **Eph 5:21-33; Lk 20:34; I Cor 12:12**

The true bride of Christ in heaven is the New Jerusalem city that comes down out of heaven from God and her children shall be the Church, the redeemed of the Lord that cometh up from the earth at the first Resurrection. **Rev 3:12; Rev 19:7-9; Lk 20:35-36**

Can a created being query the wisdom of his Creator? Or the pot the potter why he made him so (**Rom 9:20-21**)? See God's answer to such skeptics and unbelieving Believers and a warning to them:

Isa 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. **Vr.9** For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, *who hold the truth in unrighteousness*; **Vr.19** Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; *for God hath shewed it unto them.* (How?) **Vr.20** For the invisible things of him from creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: **Vr.21** *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.* **Vr.22** *Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,* **Vr.28** And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient:

The marriage supper invitation of the Lamb is already out, do not reject it by reason of your error in understanding (**Mtt 22:3-8; Lk 14:16-21**), for the Spirit and the bride saith unto us yet on earth in

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

May you be found that day on the Lord's banqueting table in Jesus name. Amen.

FEEDBACK

Thank you for taking time to read this literature. If you have been blessed by it and wish to send comments, make enquiries or get access to various other literatures that the author has put out, then

you can contact us via email info@devoutmenministry.com or send SMS to 08091764495 or visit us @ www.devoutmenministry.com

God bless and keep you heaven bound while ye still walk on this earth. MARANATHA